

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. Apparatus for changing the direction of transport of a sheet by about 75° to about 90° comprising:

a first flat guide for contacting the leading edge of a sheet transported along a path to change its direction of transport by an acute angle;

a second flat or concavely curved guide spaced from said first guide for contacting the leading edge of said sheet to change its direction of transport by an acute angle wherein the change of direction of transport of said sheet by said first and second guides totals about 75° to about 90°, said second guide providing accumulation of the proper amount of sheet required to change the direction of transport of said sheet by said about 75° to about 90°.

2. The apparatus of claim 1 including a first driven roller located adjacent to an end of said first guide for transporting said sheet towards said second guide, said roller preventing contact of said sheet surface with said first guide.

3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein said first roller is segmented and said first guide is segmented to fit into the recesses of said segmented first roller to assist in transitioning said sheet from said first guide to said first roller without any contact between the surface of said sheet and said first guide.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 including a second driven roller, spaced from said second guide and located below said first roller, for contacting the surface of said sheet as it is guided by said second guide to assist in overcoming the beam strength of said sheet to allow the continued turning of said sheet.

5. Film transport apparatus comprising:

a first driven roller set for transporting a film along a horizontal path;

a second driven roller set spaced laterally and downwardly from said first roller set for transporting said film along a vertical path; and

a film guide assembly for guiding said film between said first and second roller sets, said assembly including a first flat guide positioned to contact the leading edge of a film transported horizontally by said first roller set to change its direction of transport at an acute angle;

a first driven guide roller located adjacent to an end of said first guide for transporting said film towards a second guide, said roller preventing contact of said film surface with said first guide;

a second flat or concavely curved guide spaced from said first guide for contacting the leading edge of said film to change its direction of transport by an acute angle, wherein the change of direction of transport of said film by said first and second guides totals about 75° to 95°, said second flat or concavely curved guide providing accumulation of film required to change the direction of transport of said film by about 75° to about 90° to a vertical direction into said second driven roller set; and

a second driven guide roller spaced from said second guide and located below said first guide for contacting the surface of said film as it is guided by said second guide to assist in overcoming the beam strength of said film to allow the continued turning of said sheet;

wherein during transport of said film by and between said first and second driven roller sets, only the leading and/or trailing edges of said film come into contact with said first and second guides.

6. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said first roller is segmented and said first guide is segmented to fit into the recesses of said segmented first roller to assist in transitioning said film from said first guide to said first roller without any contact between the surface of said film and said first guide.

7. The apparatus of claim 5 wherein said first and second rollers and said first and second roller sets are driven at the same speed to prevent any scratching of the film.